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**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

**DATE:** June 8, 2004

**TO:** Examiner Philip C. Tucker  
 Group Art Unit 1712  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RE:** U.S. Patent Application No. 10/076,209  
 Entitled: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE  
Our Ref.: 00072CIP(3600-306-01)

**FROM:** Luke A. Kilyk, Esq.   
**FAC. TEL. NO.:** 1-703-872-9306

**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET):** 10

Items Attached: Amendment After Final -- 9 pages

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on June 8, 2004.

Kim Blum  
 Name (Print)

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 Signature

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Kim Blum

Name (Print)

Signature

**Expedited Procedure Requested  
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BENTON et al. ) Examiner: Philip C. Tucker  
Application No.: 10/076,209 )  
Filed: February 14, 2002 ) Group Art Unit: 1712  
Docket No.: 00072CIP (3600-306-01) ) Confirmation No.: 8589

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For: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 8, 2004

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated March 9, 2004, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before June 9, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.